

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action. The present response is intended to be fully responsive to the rejections raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

The application includes presently pending claims 1-17. Claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102 based on US Patent Application US2002/0193115 A1 to Furukawa et al (Furukawa). The Examiner has indicated that claims 4 and 5 are allowable, and Applicants have added new claims 6-17.

The Claimed Invention

The claimed invention relates to a power control mechanism that accommodates the need for power re-regulation when a repeater is added to the system, or when one is removed. The power regulation consists of the addition or removal of 3dB of gain to accommodate the changes in the BTS associated with the use of a repeater device. The power control described in the specification is performed in order to minimize the downtime associated with system reconfigurations relating to the use of repeaters.

The power adjustment of the claimed invention is not performed based on the power requirements of individual mobile stations. As such, the power levels of individual channels of the BTS are not modified. Rather the power of the aggregate of the transmit channels is adjusted.

The Cited References

The references of record appear to be directed to power control mechanisms for the individual channels of a wireless communication system. The Examiner cited to Figure 2 of the Furukawa reference as disclosing the presently claimed BTS power control method and apparatus.

However, the Furukawa reference appears to describe the control of the transmit power level of individual channels based on a power control bit received from the mobile station. See Furukawa page 1, ¶ [0009], page 9 ¶ [0141], [0142] and [0146] to [0148]. As such, Furukawa does not disclose the control of the aggregate BTS power of the type needed to correct for BTS configuration changes relating to the use of repeaters.

The Pending Claims are Allowable

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the power control signal is generated in response to the establishment and removal of a repeater. In addition, claim 1 has been amended to indicate that the gain variable amplifier regulates the entire transmission power of the BTS. Applicants submit that claim 1 is now incondition for allowance because the prior art of record does not disclose or make obvious the combination of elements recited in claim 1. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1, and are therefore also allowable. The Examiner had previously indicated that claims 4 and 5 are allowable, and Applicants have made minor amendments to the form of claim 4. Applicants have also added claims 6-17, of which claims 8 and 13 are independent. Claim 8 recites the steps of “configuring a BTS to use a repeater” and “re-regulating the BTS transmit power by configuring a variable amplifier to increase the gain by approximately 3dB,” and claim 13 recites the steps of “configuring a BTS to remove an established repeater” and “re-regulating the BTS transmit power by configuring a variable amplifier to decrease the gain by approximately 3dB.” These combinations of elements are not disclosed nor made obvious by the prior art of record. As such, the newly added claims are believed to be allowable and such action is requested.

CONCLUSION

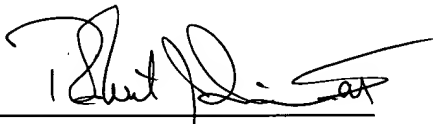
The Applicants submit that the application is in good and proper form for allowance, and respectfully request the Examiner to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney, at 312-913-3305.

Respectfully submitted,

McDONNELL BOEHNEN
HULBERT & BERGHOFF LLP

December 7, 2004

By:


Robert J. Irvine III
Registration No. 41,865